

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 28 1979
DATE ENTERED	<i>Burley</i>

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

RED HORSE TAVERN, BROOKSIDE (AURORA VICINITY), PRESTON COUNTY, WV.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 2

7. The subject property is a 5.284 acre tract adjacent to the Red Horse Tavern, a building listed in the National Register of Historic Places (July 2, 1973), and located approximately one mile east of Aurora at Brookside on the north side of U.S. Route 50 in Preston County, West Virginia. The acreage, abutting the Red Horse Tavern on its northwest elevation, is a generally level parcel of open meadow and pasture land that farms a scenic vista between Route 50 and Rhine Creek on a north-south axis, and between the Red Horse Tavern and Cathedral State Park on an east-west axis.
8. The five-acre tract providing a backdrop for the Red Horse Tavern on its north and west elevations is significant as a natural and scenic area with strong historical ties and references to the old stone tavern. The property has a documented direct association with the tavern that extends well over a century into the past. William H. Grimes, a mid-nineteenth century proprietor of the tavern, and a relative of the tavern's builder, Henry Grimes, was owner of 1000 acres of land upon which the stone tavern was the principal building.

The Red Horse Tavern, a gable-roofed, two-story structure of rubble stone construction, was erected in 1825-27 (A stone bearing the initials GHG and the date 1827 appears in the gable at the east end of the building.), by Henry Grimes as a dwelling near the tiny village known in that day as German Settlement, and now called Aurora in Preston County, (West) Virginia. In 1841, the residence was opened as a tavern that served travelers along the busy Northwestern Turnpike. In the words of Ambler and Summers in West Virginia, The Mountain State:

The chief engineer of the Northwestern Turnpike was Charles B. Shaw, who was directed by Colonel Claudius Crozet, a French artillery officer who had served with Napoleon and was then the chief engineer of Virginia. It was due largely to their skill and engineering ability that this highway was completed when it was, and that it became a popular thoroughfare. Ignoring those sectional differences which cursed West Virginia from her earliest history, they chose a route passing by Romney, Burlington, Aurora, Fellowsville, Grafton, Clarksburg, West Union, and Pennsboro, over the best grades possible. From the Virginia line to Parkersburg, all of the route, except eight and one-half miles in Maryland, was in Virginia. At a total cost of \$400,000, it was completed in 1838, and at once took rank among the main-traveled routes between the East and the West.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The property adjacent to and north of the old stone tavern comprising the 5.284 acres that is proposed as an added (amended) area to the Red Horse Tavern National Register site, was used in part as a grazing and pasturage grounds for herdsmen and drovers who regularly used the Northwestern Turnpike in the nineteenth century. The nearby parcel also provided space for kitchen vegetable gardens; and for the areas closer to the house, sites for minor buildings and dependencies.

The most important feature of the Red Horse Tavern grounds today (1979) relates to its scenic qualities that form a significant setting between the tavern and Cathedral State Park. To the ^{west} east of the tavern and its meadow lands is the 126-acre Cathedral State Park, a sprawling grove of hemlock trees that comprise West Virginia only remaining sizable stand of virgin timber. The park assumes its name from the majestic, centuries-old trees that suggest in their cool, dark midst a cathedral-like reverence. Among the prizes of this forest are a hemlock with a circumference of 21 feet, a black cherry 13 feet around, and a red oak with a 9-foot circumference. The creation of Cathedral State Park was possible through the life-long efforts of a mountaineer, one Branson Haas (1875-1955), whose purchase of the property in 1922 and later sale to the state assured the preservation of the ancient groves.

At an elevation of 2500 feet above sea level, the Red Horse Tavern grounds and adjacent tracts are home to varieties of ferns, violets, Dutchman's Pipe, trillium, ground pine, trailing arbutus, bluets, lady's slipper, dogwood, and rhododendron. Rhine Creek, that forms the northern boundary of the meadows, is the headwater source of the Youghiogheny River.

The inclusion of the Red Horse Tavern grounds in the National Register will provide additional protection for the existing National Register property, and will assure that proper planning procedures are observed in the conservation of the unique historical and natural qualities of the immediate area.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 2

9. Ambler, Charles H., and Festus P. Summers. West Virginia: The Mountain State. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1958, pp. 152-53.

Deeds of the Preston County Court, Kingwood, W.Va., Vol. 26 (1868-69), p. 28; Vol. 28 (1869-71), p. 319; Vol. 33 (1871-71), p. 252-54; Vol. 36 (1872-73), pp. 277-80.

Colander, Valerie N., "Old Stone Tavern Challenges Preston," Sunday-Dominion Past Panorama, Morgantown, WV, Oct. 20, 1978, pp. 8-9.

Hill, Frank. "Appalachian Treasure." Cathedral State Park brochure, W.Va. Dept. of Natural Resources, n.d., n.p.

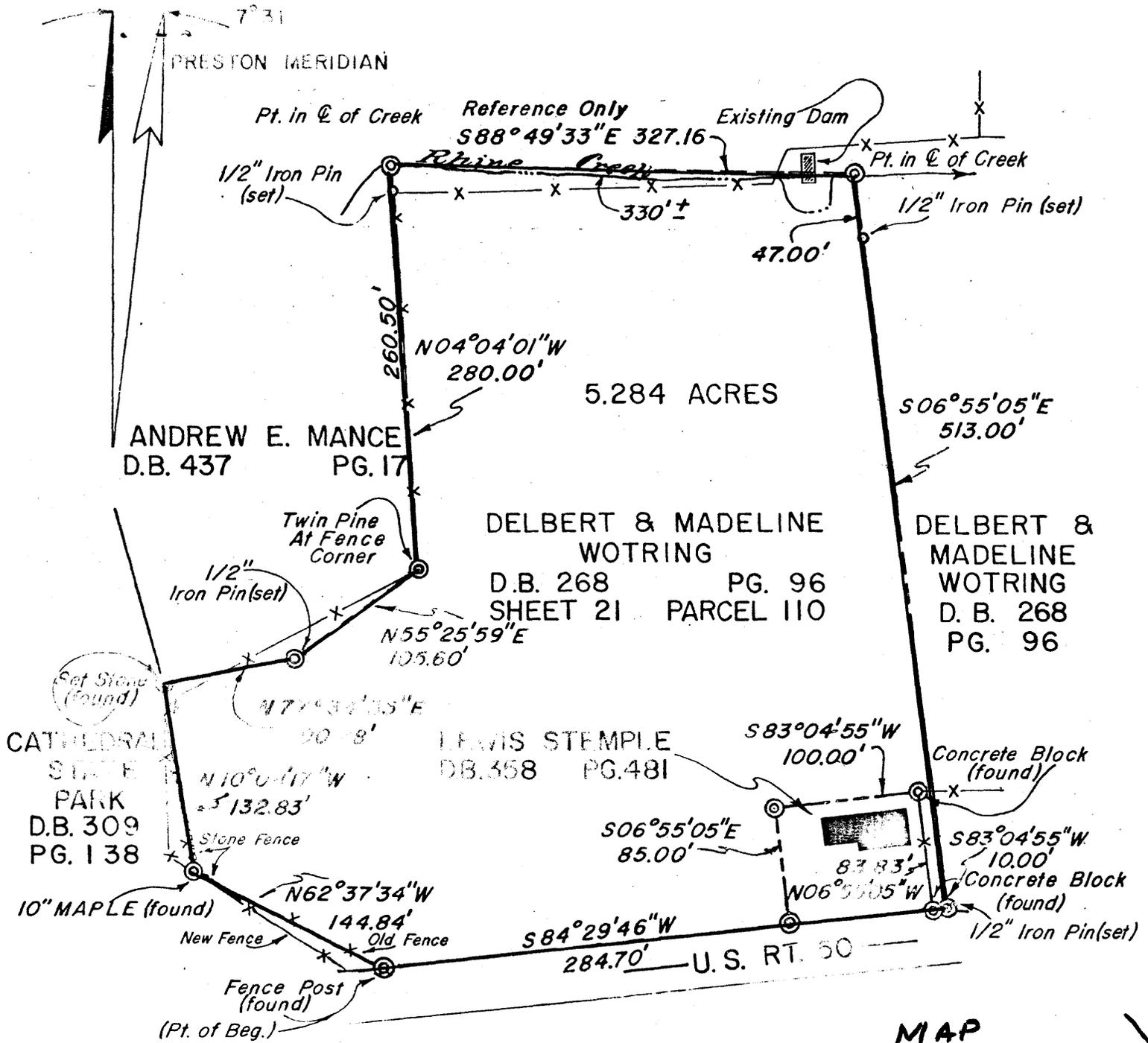
Surveyor's Records of Preston County. Kingwood, W.Va., vol. 2 (1810-1970), p. 128.

10. Acreage of property: 5.284
Quadrangle: Aurora, W.Va.
Scale: 1:24,000

UTM: 17/626 520/4353 860

Verbal Boundary Description

The 5.284 acre tract at the Red Horse Tavern is bound on the south by U.S. Route 50, approximately one mile east of Aurora at Brookside, Preston County, W.Va. Beginning at a point slightly west of the stone building on Route 50, the boundary runs northward to Rhine Creek, westward along and including Rhine Creek, and southward along the boundary with Andrew Mance, thence southwestward to the boundary of Cathedral State Park, and thence southeastward to U.S. Route 50 (see legal survey of subject property with red line).



PROPERTY SURVEYED
FOR

LEWIS STEMPLE

IN

UNION DISTRICT PRESTON COUNTY

WEST VIRGINIA

SCALE: 1"=100'

JUNE 1977

MOUNTAIN STATE SURVEYING COMPANY
KINGWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA

Garry L. Shores
GARRY L. SHORES, L.L.S., No. 583
TERRA ALTA, WEST VIRGINIA

MAP
COORDINATES
LAT. N 39° 19' 34"
LON. W 79° 31' 54"

